

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ATLANTIC RICHFIELD COMPANY
BLUEWATER MILL
DOCKET NO. 40-8902

AGENCY: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

ACTION: Notice of intent to amend Source Material License SUA-1470 to incorporate a revised design for the radon barrier into the approved tailings reclamation plan, and Notice of Opportunity to request a hearing.

1. Proposed Action:

By letter dated December 13, 1993, Atlantic Richfield Company requested amendment of Source Material License SUA-1470 to revise the design of the main tailings pile radon barrier for the approved tailings reclamation plan for the Bluewater Mill. The proposed action is to amend the license to incorporate a revised design for the radon barrier.

2. Basis for Proposed Action:

The NRC staff performed an independent review of the licensee's December 13, 1993, submittal as well as subsequent submittals dated March 2, 10, and 29, 1994. As a result of the review, the staff concludes that the radon barrier thicknesses which the licensee has stated will be achieved in the field will attenuate radon emanation from the reclaimed tailings to less than 20 pCi/m²/sec, as required by Criterion 6 of Appendix A to 10 CFR 40. The staff therefore concludes that the license should be amended to require that the licensee place the radon barrier layer to thicknesses which they have stated will be achieved.

Paragraph 10 CFR 51.22 (c)(11), categorically excludes the requirement for an environmental assessment for this licensing action. That paragraph states that the categorical exclusion applies to the issuance of amendments to licenses for uranium mills provided that (1) there is no significant change in the types or significant increase in the amounts of any effluents that may be released offsite, (2) there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure, (3) there is no significant construction impact,

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and (4) there is no significant increase in the potential for or consequences from radiological accidents.

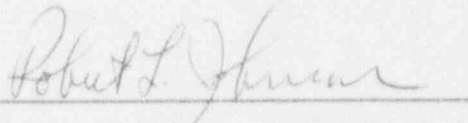
The licensing action discussed in this memorandum involves only modification of the radon barrier design. These changes will not result in adverse environmental impacts. An environmental report is not required from the licensee since the amendment does not meet the criteria of 10 CFR 51.60 (b)(2).

3. Notice of Opportunity to Request Hearing:

In accordance with Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 2 (10 CFR 2), paragraph 2.1205(c)(1), interested parties are hereby notified that they may request a hearing pursuant to the procedures set forth in 10 CFR 2.1205 within thirty (30) days of the publication of this notice.

Signed in Rockville, Maryland

this 5th day of May, 1994

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert L. Johnson", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert L. Johnson, Acting Chief, HLUR